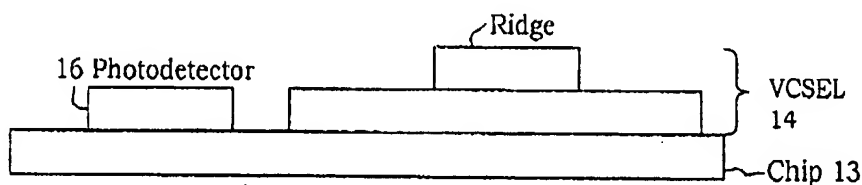


an electrode; and a monitoring photodiode mounted on the second mount surface of the substrate and having a light-receiving surface which receives light emitted from the light emission point, and a relay electrode connected to the electrode of the laser diode by a metal wire.” These features are not disclosed or suggested by Lebby.

In particular, Lebby fails to disclose “a submount mounted on the first mount surface of the substrate” and “a laser diode mounted on the submount.” The Examiner has cited Figure 1 of Lebby as disclosing these features, citing a substrate 13, a laser device 14 and “a submount under laser 14 mounted on first submount surface of substrate 13.” Applicants respectfully disagree.

As disclosed in col. 3, line 23, through col. 4, line 10, of Lebby, item 14 refers to a vertical cavity surface emitting laser (hereinafter, “VCSEL”) which comprises both a ridge and an active region as shown in Figure 1 of Lebby. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has misinterpreted the active region as a submount. Additional support for applicants’ position can be found in Figure 2 of Lebby, which discloses a VCSEL 46 similar to that shown in Figure 1 (col. 3, lines 31 and 32 and col. 5, lines 35-41). As shown in Figure 2, the VCSEL 46 is identified by a lead line connected to the active region of the VCSEL 46 rather than the ridge portion, thereby indicating that the ridge portion and the active region are both regions of the VCSELs 14, 46.

To help clarify applicants’ remarks, applicants have reproduced the relevant portion of Figure 1 of Lebby below, including applicants’ identifiers.



As shown in the above Figure, the VCSEL 14 is mounted directly on the substrate chip 13. Accordingly, Lebby does not disclose or suggest a submount as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, Lebby does not disclose or suggest “a relay electrode connected to the electrode of the laser diode by a metal wire” as recited in claim 1. The Examiner has cited the “plurality of bond wire interconnects 26” which connect the VCSEL 14 and the photodetector 16 as shown in Figure 1 of Lebby and described at col. 5, lines 22-25, as disclosing this feature. However, although Lebby may disclose a metal wire, Lebby does not disclose or suggest a relay electrode connected to a wire as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Lebby. Claims 2-6 depend from allowable claim 1 are allowable due at least to their respective dependencies.

Claims 7-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Lebby. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants initially note that item 5 on page 4 of the Action appears to contain a typographical error in that the rejection indicates that claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) instead of 103(a). Due to the location of the rejection in the Action, under the heading “Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103”, and the text of the action indicating that Lebby does not “discretely disclose” all of the features recited in the claims, applicants assume that the Examiner intended to reject the claims under 35 USC 103(b).

As discussed above, Lebby fails to disclose or suggest both a submount and a relay electrode as recited in claim 1, which is therefore allowable. Accordingly, claims 7-10, which depend from claim 1, are allowable due at least to their respective dependencies.

Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Lebby in view of Applicants’ Admitted Prior Art, Figure 7A (hereinafter, “AAPA”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

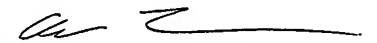
AAPA, as shown in Figure 7A, was cited only as disclosing a metal wire attached to the substrate, and fails to overcome the deficiencies of Lebby as described above with respect to claim

1. Accordingly, claims 13 and 14, which depend from claim 1, are allowable due at least to their respective dependencies.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. **204552030600**.

Dated: December 4, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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